

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-13 /113 W
-----010751 085430 /22

R 281446Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0530

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0826

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EAID, ECON, PFOR, YE, YS

SUBJ: RESULTS OF YEMENI/PDRY GULF ECONOMIC MISSION

1. ON EVENING OF FEBRUARY 27, MINISTER OF STATE AHMAD ABDU SAID CAME BY TO BRIEF ME ON THE RESULTS OF HIS RECENT MISSION TO THE GULF IN THE COMPANY OF PDRY MINISTER OF ECONOMY ABD AL-AZIZ ABD AL-WALI NASHIR. SAID SAID THAT THE MISSION, ORGANIZED AT THE REQUEST OF THE PDRY GOVERNMENT, HAD BEEN GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL. HE SAID THAT THE MISSION HAD TWO PURPOSES, (A) TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE COUNTRIES VISITED TO ENABLE YEMEN AND PDRY TO CONTINUE THEIR PRICE SUBSIDIES OF OIL AND GASOLINE IN THE WAKE OF THE RECENT PRICE RISES OF THESE COMMODITIES AND (B) TO ENCOURSE THE COUNTRIES VISITED TO INCREASE THE RATE OF THEIR INVESTMENT IN THE TWO YEMENS BOTH IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT DEVELOPMENTAL SECTOR. SAID STATED THAT ALL OF THE COUNTRIES AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO PROVIDE BOTH YEMENS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR
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THE OIL SUBSIDIES AS WELL AS TO INCREASE THEIR INVESTMENTS. IRAQ, HOWEVER, WAS THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH PROMISED \$5 MILLION TO EACH OF THE YEMENS OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS FOR THE OIL SUBSIDIES. IRAQ ALSO PROMISED TO OFFER THE SAME AMOUNTS IN THE NEXT SIX MONTH PERIOD.

2. SAID SAID THAT THE PDRY GOVERNMENT PROPOSED THIS KIND

OF MISSION BECAUSE IT WISHES TO USE YEMEN'S GOOD REPUTATION WITH THE GULF STATES AS A WAY OF OBTAINING ASSISTANCE FOR ITSELF. . SAID STATED THAT THE QATARIS, HOWEVER, TOOK THE OCCASION TO LECTURE THE PDRY MINISTER ON THE DANAGER OF COMMUNISM AND ON THE NEED FOR PDRY TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. SAID DOUBTED THAT THIS LECTURE HAD MADE MUCH IMPRESSION ON ABD AL-WALI. HE SAID BENEATH HIS SMOOTH AND AFFABLE EXTERIOR ABD AL-WALI IS A COMMITTED IDEOLOGUE ACTUALLY IN CHARGE NOT ONLY OF ECONOMIC MATTERS FOR PDRY BUT ALSO OF THE PARTY'S INTERNAL SECURITY APPARATUS.

3. SAID CONCLUDED THAT YEMEN WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO FIND WAYS TO COOPERATE WITH PDRY ON ECONOMIC MATTERS BECAUSE IT BELIVES THIS IS THE ONLY AREA WHERE THERE IS SOME CHANCE TO ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH AND SUPPORT OF MODERATE ELEMENTS IN PDRY.

4. COMMENT: THIS VISIT MUST BE VIEWED IN LIGHT OF THE ON-GOING YEMENI EFFORT TO MAINTAIN SOME SORT OF DIALOGUE WITH ITS SOUTHERN LEFTIST BROTHER. THERE ARE NO ILLUSIONS, HOWEVER, ABOUT WHAT THAT DIALOGUE MIGHT ACHIEVE. IN THE MEANTIME THE EMPHASIS APPEARS TO BE IN THE ECONOMIC AREA WHERE IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO PLAY LESS OF A ROLE IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS.
SCOTES

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